

Table of Contents

PART ONE	1.0 Introduction	11
	2.0 Background on ESAs	12
	Definition and importance of ESAs	12
	History of Alberta's ESAs	12
	Rationale for update of Alberta's ESAs	13
	3.0 ESA Classification Criteria	15
	The updated ESA criteria	15
	Criteria summary	17
	4.0 Methods	18
	Building the Criteria layers	18
CRITERION 1: Elements of conservation concern	18	
CRITERION 2: Priority landforms	20	
CRITERION 3: Habitat for focal species	20	
CRITERION 4: Important wildlife habitat	21	
CRITERION 5: Riparian areas	21	
CRITERION 6: Large natural areas	22	
CRITERION 7: Sites of recognized significance	23	
Combining the criteria layers to identify ESAs	24	
ESA units of analysis		
ESA Identification		
Assigning significance ratings to ESAs	26	
5.0 RESULTS	27	
6.0 DISCUSSION	30	
7.0 CAVEATS FOR ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	35	
8.0 CONCLUSION	39	
Literature Cited	40	

PART TWO	9.0	ESAs	47
		Rocky Mountains	49
		Foothills	161
		Grassland	289
		Parkland	699
		Boreal	913
		Canadian Shield	1,543
PART THREE	10.0	Appendix 1	1,567
		Systematic Conservation Planning	
	11.0	Appendix 2	1,569
		GIS Layers	
	12.0	Appendix 3	1,572
		Elements of Conservation Concern	
	13.0	Appendix 4	1,616
		Priority Landforms	
	14.0	Appendix 5	1,623
		Focal Species	
15.0	Appendix 6	1,624	
	Sites of Recognized Significance		
16.0	Appendix 7	1,629	
	ESA Toolbox		
17.0	Appendix 8	1,631	
	Overlap with original ESAs (1997-1998)		
18.0	Appendix 9	1,655	
	ESAs by Provincial and National Grids		